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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izgarberg DATE 12/23/81
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O 261300Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5432

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 4107

EXDIS

REF: STATE 27362

SUBJ: U.S. ELECTION OBSERVERS

1. EMBASSY HAS NOW COMPLETED TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF PROGRAM FOR OBSERVERS. THIS HAS BEEN FORMULATED WITH CAREFUL REGARD FOR VARIOUS INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDANCE RECEIVED FROM DEPARTMENT. FOLLOWING IS OUTLINE OF PROPOSED PROGRAM:

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A[illegible] 30: 1700: OBSERVERS ARRIVE. RECEIVED AT VIP
E[illegible]RANCE TAN SONH
H[illegible] AIRPORT. RECEPTION COMMITTEE,
M[illegible]ISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN CHARGE RECEPTION ARRANGE-
M[illegible]NTS. MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DR. TRAN VAN DO
E[illegible]PECTED GREET OBSERVERS ON BEHALF GVN.
A[illegible]BASSADOR BUNKER AND GENERAL WESTMORELAND WILL
BE PRS ENT.
PRESS WILL BE PRESENT BUT THERE WILL BE NO FORMAL
PRESS CONFERENCE. 1730 . OBSERVERS TRANSPORTED
TO RESPECTIVE QUARTERS. PRESENT PLANS ARE TO HOUSE

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OBSERVERS IN PRIVATE HOMES). TRANSPORTATION BY MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS WITH MINISTRY ESCORTS.
1830-2000 - (FOR THOSE DESIRING) - INFORMAL COCKTAILS AT RESIDENCE AMBASSADOR BUNKER.
AUGUST 31: 0930-1200 - OBSERVERS WILL GATHER AT MACCORDS CONFERENCE ROOM. LIMITED NUMBER OF PRESS WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND ON POOL BASIS. OBSERVERS WILL BE GREETED BY AMBASSADOR BUNKER AND GENERAL WESTMORELAND. FOLLOWING REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR AND WESTMORELAND, THERE WILL BE A BRIEFING ON THE ELECTIONS

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BY THE POLITICAL SECTION.
1400-1800 - OBSERVERS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO FIVE OR SIX GROUPS FOR VISITS TO NEARBY PROVINCES. POSSIBLY TWO OF THESE GROUPS WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR MORE DISTANT VISITS TO POINTS WHERE THEY WILL REMAIN OVERNIGHT.
1800 - RETURN SAIGON.
2100-2200 - FOR THOSE DESIRING, ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR VIEWING TELEVISION APPEARANCES BY CANDIDATES. TRANSLATORS WILL BE PRESENT.
SEPT. 1-0900-1100 - ALL OBSERVERS (EXCEPT THOSE WHO REMAINED IN FIELD OVERNIGHT) WILL ATTEND (OR BE ABW TO VIEW) ELECTION RALLY IN PROFU OF SAIGON CITY HALL. (THIS IS FINAL RALLY FOR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES AND ONLY ONE SCHEDULED FOR PERIOD DURING WHICH OBSERVERS WILL BE IN VIET NAM.)
1100 - OBSERVER GROUPS WILL DEPART ON VISITS TO PROVINCES. (ONE GROUP, OR MORE SHOULD THE OBSERVERS DESIRE, WILL TOUR SAIGON TO VIEW ELECTION PREPARATIONS AND ACTIVITIES.)
1700 - ALL OBSERVER GROUPS RETURN SAIGON.
1830-2000 - INFORMAL RECEPTION BY AMBASSADOR BUNKER.

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2100-2200 - VIEWING CANDIDATES' TELEVISION APPEARANCES.
SEPT. 2 TO 4: ALL OBSERVERS JOIN GVN SCHEDULE (SEE SEPTEL).

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SEPT. 5: MEETING WITH GVNERAL WESTMORELAND AND OTHER SENIOR MISSION OFFICERS. CLASSIFIED MISSION, BRIEFING AND FIELD TRIPS (MILITARY AND RD FOR ALL OBSERVERS. NO PRESS ATTENDANCE.
SEPT. 5: OBSERVERS DEPART FOR WASHINGTON.
2. WE BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL THAT OBSERVERS BE EXPOSED TO PRESS SUFFICIENTLY TO ASSURE THAT PRESS CAN ASSERT THEY HAVE NBD BEEN CLOSETED WITH AND "BRAINWASHED" BY EMBASSY. THUS, WE FAVOR PRESS ATTENDANCE AT AUG. 31 BRIEFING AND VSO FAVOR PERMITTING REPRESENTATIVES OF PRESS (ON ROLL BASIS) TO ACCOMPANY EACH OF GROUPS ON VISITS TO PROVINCES, ETC. WE SEE NO NEED FOR MASS PRESS CONFERENCE ALTHOUGHPOSSIBLE THAT OBSERVERS THEMSELVES MAY WISH SHCU CONFERENCE PRIOR TO THE O DEPARTURE FROM SAIGON.
3. WE CONSIDER ABOVE PROPOSED SCHEDULE OFFERS MAXIMUM OPPORTUNITY FOR OBSERVERS TO GET AROUND AS

PAGE 5 RUMJIR 4107 SU C R E T
MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND YET PROVI
S NECESSARY FLEXIBILIZ
TO MEET VARIOUS NEEDS IMRIVIDUAL OBSERVERS.
OBVIOUSLY WE WILL TAILOR SCHEDULES TO INDIVIDUAL NEEDS TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE, BUT WE FEEL THAT TO ASSURE ADEQUATE SECURITY
PREPARAIIONS AND OTHER ARRANGE-
MENTS NECESSARY TO GIVE OBSERVERS OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEANINGFUL VISITS TO PROVINCES EDVANCED PLANNING IS NECESSARY. ACCORDINGLY, WE PLAN TO MAKE BASIC ARRANGEMENTS IN ADVANCE FOR GROUP TOURS, OFFERING WITHIN THESE PROPOSED TOURS AS WIDE A VARIETY OF OPPORTUNITIES GEOGRAPHICEELY AND POLITICAPGY AS POSSIBLE. THE "GUIDED TOUR" ASPECTHUS UNFORTUNATE BUT IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE OF PERSONALITIES INVOLVED, WE FEEL SECURITY RISK IN ANY MORE INFORMAL ARRANGEMENTOFOR VIFTTS TO PROVINCES TOO GREAT, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW ENHANCES DANGERS DURING ELECTION PERIOD.

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4. WE RECOGNIZE THAT MEMBERSHIP OF OBSERVER GROUP COVERS WIDE SPECTRUM OF PROFESSIONAL, EXPERIENCE AND PERSONAL INTERESTSINND ARE BEARING THIS IN MIND.

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WE DO NOT INTEND TO DO ANY ADVANCED INDIVIDUAL SCHEDULING BUT WE SHALL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MEET OOSERVERS' VARIED DESIRES PROMPTLY AND WITH MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY, BEARING IN MIND AGAIN THAT SECURITY CONDIDERATIONS MAY LIMIT OPPORTUNITIES FOR MOVEMENT OUTSIDE OF SAIGON.
5. THE GVN SCHEDULE AS PRESENTLY PLANNED FOCP SEPTEMBER 2 THROUGH 4 IS NOT IDEAL, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO ELECTION DAY. WE ARE URGIN GVN TO INCLUDE MORE PLACES OF OBSERVATION ON ELECTION DAY THAN THE THREE NOW SCHEDULED, AND WE HOPE FINAL VERSION WILL BE AN IMPROVEMENT. LRACC EVENT, HOWEVER, WE FEEL MOST STRONGLY THAT AT LEAST A MAJORITY [illegible] THE OBSERVERS SHOULD JOIN IN FULL WITH THE GVN SC[illegible] FOR THOSE THREE DAYS. NOT ONLY DOES GVN (WH[illegible] SENSITIVE ABOUT APPEARANCES WITH RESPECT T[illegible] SOVEREIGNTY) SET GREAT STORE BY THE PARTIC[illegible] OF THE AMERICAN OBSERVERS AS AN INTEGRAL [illegible] THE INVITED OBSERVER GROUPS FROM OTHER NA[illegible] ARROGATING SPECIAL STATUS TO US OBSERVERS SERIOUSLY DETRACT FROM THE IMPRESSION, JUS[illegible] ESSENTIAL TO US, THAT THESE ELECTIONS ARE COMPLETELY A VIETNAMESE SHOW.
BUNKER

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6. WHILE WE WOULDHOPE THAT A GOODLY PERCENTAGE OF THE GROUP WOULD FOLLOW THE GVN SCHEDULE, WE RECOGNIZE THAT SOME MAY FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT NOT DOING SO AND WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEM. IN ORDER THAT THIS WHOLE PROBLEM DOES NOT GET OUT OF HAND, HOWEVER, WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE IT IF THE GROUP COULD BE INFORMED IN ADVANCE AT AS HIGH A LEVEL AS POSSIBLE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF REMEMBERING THAT IN THE EYES OF THE GVN THEY ARE HERE AS GUESTS OF THE GVN AND THAT BOTH US AND GVN INTERESTS WILL BE SERVED BY THEIR COOPERATING, TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE, WITH GVN

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ARRANGEMENTS.
7. WE ARE PLANNING TO SEND AN OFFICER TO JOINT THE OBSERVERS' PLANE AT YAKOTA AFB, JAPAN AND TO BE AVAILABLE ON BALANCE OF FLIGHT TO BRIEF THEM ON ARRANGEMENTS AND PROVIDE CERTAIN ADVANCE MATERIAL WHICH MAY BE HELPFUL. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S INCLUSION OF MEMSH AND TEARE AS ESCORT OFFICERS. IF A THIRD LANGUAV OFFICER IS AVAILABLE, WE COULD USE H.M.
8. WE WILL, OF COURSE, KEEP DEPARTMENT FULLY

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INFORMED OF ALL PLANS AND DEVELOPMENTS WITH RESPECT TO OBSERVERS AND ON HOW THEIR VISIT PROCEEDS AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL. GP-1. BUNKER

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